

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1, as now amended, recites that the axis of the steering shaft substantially intersects a straight line that connects centers of said two fixing members. This feature is apparent in Fig. 1, for example, of Applicants' drawings, wherein an axis of steering shaft S, extending perpendicular to the sheet of a drawing, at the center of the steering shaft S, substantially intersects a line that connects centers of the two fixing members 16 and 17 at opposite sides of the steering shaft.

It is apparent that the invention recited in Claim 1 is not taught by the Japanese reference relied upon in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment.

This application is now believed to be clearly in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10142) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing

of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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